

DAVID BIER



ST. MICHAEL'S MONASTERY
UNION CITY, N. J.

April 13, 1951.

Dear Father Bechard:

Recently walter Byrnes showed me the picture of Tekawitha which he had made. When I remarked that I thought it very beautiful, he showed me the march number of Kateri and suggested that I write and express my opinion to you. That explains my taking up your time with this note.

I think the picture very beautiful and am sure that it will be of service in attracting young girls to Kateri. I don't think the objection that it 'glamorises' the little saint is valid. The face is certainly not sensual - I would say that it exhibits character. While Kateri's face had been disfigured by pock marks Father Chauchetiere does remark that she was 'very well featured' and we do know that after death her face was transformed and became very beautiful. While this picture does idealise the little saint - it is I think a legitimate idealisation. It will impress on people (especially the young) the beauty of Catherine's soul.

Walter is a zealous apostle for the glory of the little saint. He has gotten me interested and I plan to speak about her to the girls of a Catholic Academy where I celebrate Mass on Sundays.

Sincerely in Xto., *Fr. Richard, OP*

2025 Masson Street,

Montreal, 34- March 12- 57

"KATERI"

St. Francis-Xavier Mission,

Caughnawaga- Que

I do not think that the picture is appropriate. "Kateri" was not a sophisticated imitation, she was a pure blooded Indian, a convert to the Christian Church, she was humble, timid and retiring.

An appropriate picture of "Kateri" would not have this hard determined look. Her features and eyes would be typically Indian but a different expression in the eyes....the expression of one whose soul is happy not with material things but in God. The mouth is too perfect and not that of a pious little Indian girl, it looks too made up too worldly.

Without offense to the artist who made this picture I find that this picture is not inspiring. It looks like the picture of a clever actress done up to take a part in a play.

A worthy picture of "Kateri" would have something inspiring, not in facial appearance but that look of the pure in spirit and clean of heart who know about Heavenly things and what is agreeable to God.

Mrs. L.M. Brouillet

Mrs. L.M. Brouillet



MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION.

A sinner, I, unworthy of this grace,
Have cooled my burning lips on precious Wine,
That, spilling,ransomed all the human race.
A chalice, I, to hold the Blood Divine!
Within me is the privileged temple too
Where Christ is born again to set men free
And where He's scourged and crucified anew
Repeating Beth~~lehem~~ and Calvary!
Co-victim and His living altar, I
Dissolve ~~in~~ Him. His wounds I proudly bear
And, with Him, too, upon the Cross I die;
Then rise again, His resurrection share.
O, Son of God, what paradox is this
That I return Thy love with Judas' kiss?

Mora Reubledge -

Dear Father Bechard,

Enclosed as promised. I see in your magazine that most people make an offering of thanks also. That will have to go on the cuff in my case.

We are faced with this and that in the way of expenses, as you may realize.

But I will get working on a radio play and hope in that way to help spread the devotion to Katerie.

I will be out to gather some information some Sunday along towards the end of May. My absence from home on a Sunday takes a bit of preparation.

You will be able to help me, I hope, with the play idea. I'll work on it this summer in the country.

I haven't been doing much writing - my mind's been too upset and too occupied. I am bound that I'll do better in future.

Edward Rowland

1610 Bluelharne Ave,
Outremont -
January 10, 1951.

CR 0194-

Dear Father Richard -

Thanks for your note. Thanks for your prayers and those of the community and children. My niece, is a Sister of St. Ann, so it is nice to think her own sisters here are joining her prayers. She is Sister James Marie and is at St. Ann's Academy in Victoria, B.C.

I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year season. When I was a child I always used to go to visit the Mission Church at Cross Point during the Christmas season. They had a crib that fascinated me - there was a music box hidden in it & when you dropped a coin, it played "Adagio" and the Infant raised its arms! It was quite something!

I've been hoping some Sunday to be able to go out to hear your High Mass - maybe in the Spring.

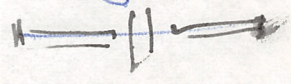
I'm glad you liked my poem. It is going to be published in the Lenten number of

"Annals of the Cope". And you know Jim Shaw is down there as Assistant Editor, with Father Hale? Jim is such a fine fellow and so talented - I'm sure he could be up there among the big writers if he really tried. I wonder why it is some prayers are never answered specifically? I suppose God has His own way of answering them and I guess we will need the sight of eternity before we understand. We have had no further word about my poor brother - I wonder if we ever will. Meantime, his wife and children are picking themselves up and going on - both the children are doing very well in their new schools.

May 1951 be a happy one for you!

Sincerely,

Leona Rutledge



MONTREAL, April 28th, 1951.

On the tenth of November last my brother was accidentally drowned in the Back River. Although dragging operations started immediately, it was impossible to locate his body.

We, his family, prayed constantly that we might be granted the consolation of finding him so that he might be laid to rest.

I wrote to the Promoter of Katerie's cause and asked for prayers at her shrine. Surely she, who had lived by the river all her life, must understand our kind of uncertainty.

Father Bechard promised to remember our intention and to have the children at the Mission School appeal to their Venerable little sister in our behalf.

Apparently, she wished us to know that she had been listening, for it was on her feast day, the 17th of April that the Provincial Police got in touch with us to tell us our brother's body had been found just below Quebec. There was no identification other than a bill from a Montreal hardware store, still legible after five months' immersion in the river. With this scant information, inquiries were started that finally led the authorities to our door.

Never has a bereaved family more fully realized the beauty of the funeral mass with its consoling prayers and its stressing of eternal life.

I, therefore, welcome the opportunity of publicly thanking Katerie for her intercession.

Nora Routledge

(Nora Routledge)

1610 Ducharme Ave.,
Outremont, Montreal 8.

Dec 3, 1950.

Sunday night.

Dear Father Bechard,

I promised to let you know when I had anything in the writing line published - and this I will do - but first I want to write to you as a priest. I have a job for your little Kateri.

We have had a terrible tragedy in our family. My brother drove his car, by accident, in a storm, into the Back River on the 10th of November and we have not been able to recover his body. Thank God, the two men with him were able to swim out of it, but my brother Joe had a very bad heart condition - and must have died as soon as he struck the water - which runs at 15 miles an hour there. He was not in the car and nothing the authorities can do has been successful.

Will you, her friend and advocate, ask Kateri to help us - to tell Our Blessed Lady and her Divine Son that it is almost unbearable, this waiting. My brother's son now lives with us and his wife and daughter round the corner with my sister. It is a tragic thing, for he had no insurance whatever - on account of his heart. (12 years old)

I know you will remember us all - the only help can come through God now, for we are helpless in the matter and ~~through~~ through ourselves on His mercy.

As a writer - a play of mine "The Night the Angels Sang" is to be on C.J.A.D. on Thursday evening, the 14th of December, by the Genesian Guild. I hope you like it, if you listen to it. I am in the Radio Script Group which Father Danaher directs - at St. Thomas More's Church in Verdun. I suppose you wouldn't be able to attend - Wednesday evenings - - you would be very welcome indeed.

I am enclosing my attempt at a sonnet.

Do tell Kateri about our cause - and we will not forget her cause, any of us.

Sincerely,

Mara Raub ledge.

